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Subregional programme document

Gulf Area (Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates)

Summary

The subregional programme document for the Gulf Area is presented to the Executive Board for discussion and approval at the present session, on a no-objection basis. The subregional programme includes a proposed aggregate indicative budget of $9,250,000 from other resources, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period 2019 to 2023.

In accordance with Executive Board decision 2014/1, the present document reflects comments made by Executive Board members on the draft subregional programme document that was shared 12 weeks before the second regular session of 2018.

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Programme rationale

1. The Gulf States covered by the subregional programme of cooperation are in the UNICEF Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region and represent five of the six member countries of the Cooperation Council for the Arab Sates of the Gulf: The Kingdom of Bahrain, the State of Kuwait, the State of Qatar, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. The Sultanate of Oman has its own UNICEF country programme.

2. The five countries are increasingly recognized as important partners, with significant political and economic influence in the wider Middle East region and globally. The Gulf States are important donor countries for development and humanitarian activities globally, and increasingly for children and UNICEF.

3. These States have some of the highest per capita incomes in the world.[1] The Gulf Area subregional programme has been developed at a time of major economic, social and political change in the subregion. The rapid decline in oil prices since 2014 has negatively affected growth rates and resulted in major reductions in government revenues. This has in turn led to fiscal deficits and the imposition of austerity measures, including increases in taxation and reductions in subsidies, which in some cases affect safety net provisions, potentially impacting children. In response, all five countries have set out ambitious vision statements for their countries, with similar goals of economic diversification, entrepreneurial growth and a deliberate shift towards knowledge-centred economies that harness the skills of their young populations. [2]

4. These ambitious reform agendas provide a unique opportunity to develop an innovative model of partnership, whereby all five Gulf States and UNICEF collaborate to support catalytic programmes for children domestically, and to mobilize partners and resources for children in the Gulf, the MENA region and globally so as to advance the development and protection of all children.

5. The combined population of the five Gulf States is almost 50 million. In 2016, Saudi Arabia had the largest population size, 32.28 million; followed by the United Arab Emirates, 9.3 million; Kuwait, 4.1 million; Qatar, 2.6 million; and Bahrain, 1.4 million.[3] The subregion is home to 4.2 million children under five years old, and 13.8 million children under the age of 18. Children and young people under 25 years old account for at least 28 per cent of the population of the entire Gulf.[4] All Gulf States host large populations of migrant workers, across all socioeconomic levels, comprising between 30 to 80 per cent of the resident population of each country.[5]

6. The 2016 Human Development Index (HDI) shows Gulf States in the very high human development category, reflecting the impressive gains made in reducing child mortality, increasing life expectancy and significantly increasing secondary education for girls and women. In terms of HDI rankings, Qatar ranks 33rd, Saudi Arabia 38th, the United Arab Emirates 42nd, Bahrain 47th and Kuwait 51st out of 188 countries.[6] All five countries have made significant progress in improving child health and increasing access to education.[7] All five States have committed to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the

[1] World Bank, Country profiles, November 2017.
[2] Government of Bahrain, The Economic Vision 2030 for Bahrain; Government of Kuwait, Vision 2035, National Development Plan, 2017; Qatar National Vision 2030, 2008; Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Vision 2030, 2016; UAE Vision 2021, The Abu Dhabi Economic Vision 2030, 2010.
[3] United Nations Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UN data. https://unstats.un.org/unsd/databases.htm
[4] UNICEF Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa, *Progress for Children with Equity in the Middle East and North Africa*, 2017.
[5] UN data.
[6] UNDP, *Human Development Report 2016*, Human Development Index, 2015 data.
[7] UNICEF, *The State of the World's Children 2016*, Statistical tables.

achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and have started to translate this commitment into national legislation and frameworks.[8]

7. However, the impressive gains made in human development, including child survival and development, disguise disparities between social groups within and across countries that affect the rights of children, adolescents and women.[9]

8. Overall, the populations of all five States enjoy a high standard of health care, with health indicators on par with the member countries of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Communicable diseases are largely under control and the challenge now is to address non-communicable diseases. While infant and child mortality has declined dramatically, by over one third since 2000, there are still an estimated 11,000 deaths among children under five each year. Recent malnutrition data show that between 3 to 24 per cent of children under five are underweight, and between 6 to 17 per cent stunted. Across the region, fewer than 1 in 3 infants under 6 months old are exclusively breastfed.[10]

9. Education is recognized as fundamental in achieving a diversified knowledge-based economy and a prerequisite for the realization of the ambitious development goals set by the Gulf States. The private sector plays an increasingly important role in education provision.

10. There are a growing number of nurseries and day-care centres. Pre-primary education (kindergarten) is free for all citizens, but is not compulsory. Across the subregion, 1 in 5 children of pre-primary school age do not participate in early learning programmes, and there is little awareness of nurturing care and early stimulation practices in the home.

11. Gross enrolment rates at primary and secondary levels are high. At lower secondary level the rates diverge; from 73 per cent in Saudi Arabia to 91 per cent in Bahrain. Education spending continues to increase, including spending per student, and is well over the OECD average. Despite high levels of investment, learning outcomes are below expectations, with students scoring in the bottom half or third in internationally comparable assessments for literacy, science and mathematics.[11]

12. Children with disabilities continue to face stigma and discrimination in a situation exacerbated by a lack of disaggregated data, evidence-based policy and practice, and coordinated multisectoral plans for early detection and intervention strategies.

13. Across the subregion – with some important differences – there is pervasive gender inequality. Women's economic and political participation remains low, and legal and cultural constraints hinder participation in many aspects of public life. This inequality is illustrated by the share of women in legislative bodies and female participation in labour markets.

14. Young people are a central pillar in all Gulf country vision statements and national development plans and their situation seen as a measure of social progress. Across all five States there is an emphasis on improving educational quality and standards at all levels and equipping young people with the knowledge and skills to be more entrepreneurial and to look beyond the public sector for employment opportunities. Most Gulf States have national policies for adolescents; yet few have translated these policies into concrete budgeted implementation plans.

15. Of growing concern to governments are the health and lifestyles of adolescents and young people. There are increasing trends of obesity, diabetes and smoking.[12] Across all five

[8] Transforming Our World, http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld, accessed 12 April 2018.
[9] MacKenzie, A., 'Priorities for Children in the Gulf Area Sub-Region', internal UNICEF report, December 2017.
[10] UNICEF, *The State of the World's* Children, Statistical Tables, country profiles.
[11] National Centre for Educational Statistics, Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study, 2015.
[12] World Health Organization, WHO global report on trends in prevalence of tobacco smoking, 2015.

States there are concerns about alcohol and drug use and an increasing level of mental health problems among adolescents and young people.

16. Child rights are reflected in all State constitutions and cover the areas of health, education, child protection, juvenile justice and child labour. However, not all laws are fully consistent with international standards. The concluding observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child highlight the following areas of concern: discrimination against children with disabilities, minority groups and migrant children; the right to acquire a nationality; violence against children at home and in schools; exploitation of domestic workers; the legal age of criminal responsibility falling below internationally recognized standards; the definition of a child, especially in relation to child marriage and juvenile justice and the continued use of corporal punishment.[13]

17. Progressive steps are being taken to strengthen national child protection systems, notably through the establishment of more specialized services and the strengthening of national coordination and referral mechanisms. However, juvenile justice reforms are, overall, more piecemeal. There is increased attention and commitment to addressing violence against children, including in the context of Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children.[14]

18. There is an urgent need to produce high quality data to monitor the implementation of the national development plans and progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. A 2017 UNICEF assessment on the availability of country data for child-related indicators from the Sustainable Development Goal monitoring framework found major data gaps for children in all five Gulf States.

19. The subregional programme was developed following extensive reviews and consultations with the Governments of all five States, informed by their respective vision statements and national development plans and their commitment to the 2030 Agenda. The key objectives of the consultations were to strengthen the strategic partnership between Governments and UNICEF and reach agreement on key catalytic programme priorities in each country. Consultations were also held with technical counterparts, United Nations country teams and civil society partners. Concurrently, a series of situation analyses of children and women were developed.

20. Several important lessons have been identified from the current programme of cooperation It is timely for UNICEF to: (a) develop an innovative partnership model of cooperation; (b) forge a more "fit for purpose" strategic partnership with Governments and meet expectations related to the UNICEF presence in all five countries; (c) develop a more systematic monitoring and evaluation framework and; (d) be more deliberate in leveraging commitments and resources through an expanded range of partners. These partnerships need to extend beyond resource mobilization to include additional means of advancing the global child rights agenda.

Programme priorities and partnerships

21. The goal of the 2019–2023 subregional programme is to further strengthen the strategic partnership with all five Gulf States to accelerate the realization of child rights, in line with their national development plans and the Sustainable Development Goals, while seeking to

[13] Committee on the Rights of the Child: CRC/C/SAU3-4 (Saudi Arabia, 20 February 2014); CRC/C/ARE/CO/2 (United Arab Emirates, 30 October 2015); CRC/C/KWT/CO/2; CRC/CBHR/CO/2-3 (Bahrain, 3 August 2011); and CRC/C/QAT/3-4 (Qatar, 24 June 2016). All can be found tbinternet.ohchr.org/layouts/treatybody/external.
[14] The United Arab Emirates is a leading country within in the MENA Region supporting the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children.

deepen engagement with the private sector to mobilize and leverage resources for children in the Gulf, the region and globally.

22. To have optimum impact, the partnership between the five Governments and UNICEF will focus on four mutually agreed strategic priorities, building on formative work undertaken in the previous programme of cooperation. These include: early childhood development; child protection; data and evidence on children; and, leveraging partnerships, commitments and resources for children.

Early childhood development

23. All Gulf States have identified early childhood development (ECD) as a priority in their national development plans and as an area of strategic engagement with UNICEF. This builds on the UNICEF comparative advantage in this area and recognizes the MENA launch of *The Lancet* series on early childhood development in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, in March 2017.

24. The overall objective of the ECD result area is to translate this political commitment into direct results for children and their families during the early years by ensuring that all children are guaranteed access to an integrated package of multisectoral services and a protective, safe and nurturing family environment.[15] The focus will be on the period from pregnancy to age 3 – including the critical first 1,000 days of life.[16]

25. To support the Gulf States to achieve this key result, UNICEF and other relevant partners will facilitate the provision of technical assistance and access to high-level experts and models of international good practices that are appropriate for the Gulf. It will also leverage its technical strength in programme implementation to promote core ECD strategies.

26. In collaboration with designated counterparts, UNICEF will advocate at national and decentralized levels for adequate fiscal resources to be allocated for ECD. To achieve change at the family level, UNICEF will support government efforts to strengthen the knowledge and skills on ECD among service providers, parents and other caregivers, with a specific focus on positive parenting, responsive care and early learning.

27. Most Gulf States have identified children with disabilities as a major priority within their ECD programmes. The programme of cooperation will focus on strengthening institutional capacity on the early identification of children with disabilities through technical support and sharing of programme guidance and tools.

28. UNICEF and partners will support Governments to further develop national policies, and technical capacities and strengthen multisectoral responses. In addition, UNICEF will work closely with health and nutrition, child protection and social welfare institutions and organizations on nurturing care and positive parenting, utilizing internationally recognized good practice. The private sector will also be sought out as a key public-private partner in ECD. UNICEF will support the ministries of education in strengthening early care and learning in kindergartens.

29. In addition, a number of Governments have requested support from UNICEF to strengthen data on ECD to fill the gaps, build the evidence base and ensure resources are optimized to improve the quality and impact of ECD interventions, with a specific focus on the most vulnerable and children with disabilities.

Child protection: violence, exploitation and abuse

[15] *The Lancet*, 'Advancing Early Childhood Development: From science to scale', 4 October 2016.
[16] *The Lancet*, Maternal and Child Nutrition, 2013 Series, 6 June 2013.

30. All five Gulf States are making significant efforts to systematically address child rights and further strengthen their child protection systems. In some countries, child protection programmes are being decentralized with the establishment of child protection centres and services at the local level, while national frameworks focus on quality standards and inclusiveness. Juvenile justice reforms have been more gradual.

31. Despite these gains, estimates suggest that in some countries, at least 1 in 5 children experience some form of violence and/or abuse, either at home or in school. The concluding observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on the periodic reports of the Gulf States have expressed concern that some forms of child labour persist, particularly for females in domestic labour. In addition, concerns have been raised about the full understanding of levels of violence, increased bullying and online safety and the quality of services provided for victims of child sexual abuse.[17]

32. All five Governments recognize that children and adolescents experience different manifestations of violence and abuse at different ages, and that age-appropriate mitigating measures and responses are therefore required. The paucity of data is a critical impediment to providing effective, age-appropriate and gender-sensitive protection and intervention services.

33. The Committee on the Rights of the Child has noted the increase in the number of juveniles or children in conflict with the law. The Committee has urged all countries in the subregion to build or strengthen systems of restorative and rehabilitative juvenile justice for all children without discrimination.[18] The programme will thus focus on strengthening juvenile justice systems.

34. The programme will focus on strengthening government capacities to generate data to better analyse the causes and extent of violence against children, strengthen national response systems and monitor the effectiveness of national responses. The data will also be used to assist Governments to increase national awareness of child rights.

35. UNICEF and partners will facilitate the provision of technical assistance and access to high-level experts and international good practices appropriate for the Gulf. Technical and strategic support will strengthen the capacity of Governments to optimize existing child protection schemes. UNICEF will support government efforts to strengthen the capacity of families, parents and childcare providers to protect child rights and to identify, report and more effectively respond to violations of child rights.

Data and evidence on children

36. Significant and limiting gaps exist in terms of the availability, quality currency and in-depth analysis of data and programme information on the situation of children across all five countries. There is an urgent need to produce high-quality statistics to monitor, measure and evaluate national development plans and to report on progress towards achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

37. A 2017 UNICEF data assessment found major data gaps for children. Among the Gulf States, data were unavailable for 63 per cent of child-related indicators on average, ranging from 68 per cent in Saudi Arabia to 50 per cent in Qatar. In none of the five States did country statistical and information systems produce more than 8 per cent of the available indicators.[19] In cases where data exist, they are often out of date, not collected routinely and infrequently

[17] Committee on the Rights of the Child, concluding observations: Kuwait, CRC/C/OPSC/KWT/CO/1, para 23, 18 February 2008.

[18] Committee on the Rights of the Child, concluding observations: CRC/C/SAU3-4 (Saudi Arabia, 8 April 2015); CRC/C/ARE/CO/2 (United Arab Emirates, 30 October 2015); CRC/C/KWT/CO/2; CRC/CBHR/CO/2-3 (Bahrain, 3 August 2011); CRC/C/QAT/3-4 (Qatar, 10 February 2014).

[19] UNICEF: Is every child counted?, 2017 https://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/SDGs-and-Data-publication.pdf SDGs-and-data-publication.

disaggregated. Routinely collected data are essential to identify vulnerable groups, reveal disparities and enable targeted policies and service provision.[20]

38. The situation analyses and lessons learned from the subregional programme (2014–2018 highlighted the importance of strengthening the capacity of the five countries to systematically collect, collate, monitor, analyse, disseminate and effectively utilize disaggregated data, with a special emphasis on disadvantaged children.

39. Working with government counterparts, UNICEF will support the strengthening of data systems and related mechanisms for collection, analyses and use of data to support policies, plans and budgets for children. Related initiatives with other United Nations organizations will be capitalized on as well. The data collected at the national and subnational level will directly support the monitoring of national development plans and Sustainable Development Goal monitoring and reporting.

40. The limited availability of data impedes advocacy efforts and opportunities for leveraging additional resources. As part of the new programme, UNICEF will forge closer partnerships with research, academic and policy institutions to build additional capacity on strengthening data for children.

Partnerships, and leveraging commitments and resources for children

41. As part of the engagement strategy underpinning the development of the 2019–2023 programme, all five Gulf States have endorsed the UNICEF strategic partnership, expanded presence and programme of cooperation for children.

42. The fourth result area of the subregional programme, partnerships, is geared towards leveraging commitments and resources for children. This objective has three distinct and mutually reinforcing elements: (a) strengthen the UNICEF strategic partnerships with all five States to advance child rights in the Gulf, the MENA region and globally; (b) advocate for optimal public financing for children, and leverage existing government social protection expenditure to focus on the most vulnerable children; and, (c) strengthen existing partnerships and develop new ones to mobilize commitments and resources for children in the Gulf, the MENA region and globally.

43. Through the new programme of cooperation, UNICEF will explicitly seek to strengthen its strategic partnership with the Gulf States to advance the realization of child rights in the Gulf and globally. In addition, UNICEF will join United Nations programmatic partnerships, alliances and coalitions for children, capitalizing on regional initiatives. UNICEF will also leverage its existing partnerships to strengthen data and build networks of thought leaders as advocates for children.

44. For this result area, UNICEF will advocate for innovative financing for children. In addition, the organization will support governments to strengthen their capacity to monitor and report on the impact of social policies and social protection measures for children and measure the impacts of austerity measures on children. Building on its global reach, UNICEF will act as a knowledge and technical assistance facilitator to identify and provide high-level international expertise and good practice for the identified priority programmes. Close collaboration within the United Nations country team will be priority.

45. UNICEF will mobilize commitments and resources for children in the Gulf States, the MENA region and globally by engaging with partners; Governments, foundations, major donors, businesses and, increasingly, the public. UNICEF will continue to strengthen its resource mobilization, communication and advocacy capacity.

46. Working closely with the Gulf States, UNICEF will support government initiatives to raise public awareness of child rights. In addition, UNICEF will foster closer existing

[20] UNICEF MENA, SDG child-related indicators, 2017.

relationships with regional entities, including the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, and build on ongoing collaboration with the Islamic Development Bank. UNICEF will continue to partner with other United Nations organizations and leverage their technical expertise for the benefit of children and young people. UNICEF will collaborate with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on early learning and out-of-school youth, and with the United Nations Development Programme on young people and juvenile justice. The United Nations common country strategic frameworks provide an opportunity to mobilize additional resources for children and young people in the Gulf.

47. Building on experience, UNICEF will expand its work with the private sector, partnering with businesses as advocates for children and promoting child-friendly business practices in line with the Child Rights and Business Principles. UNICEF will increasingly engage the public to deepen awareness of children's issues, build a constituency of supporters of children's rights and raise funds for its programmes.

Subregional programme strategies

48. The subregional programme of cooperation between the Governments and UNICEF will employ a mix of strategies: (a) partnerships with major donors, businesses, foundations, civil society organizations and research and academic institutions to mobilize commitments for children; (b) mobilization of expertise and facilitation of knowledge generation and exchange; and implementation of good international practices to strengthen government capacity to advance child rights; (c) evidence-based policy development to strengthen legislative and policy frameworks for children and adolescents, in particular in the areas of early childhood development, child protection and juvenile justice; (d) advocacy to promote an end to violence, exploitation and abuse of all children; to ensure the participation of children and adolescents is respected; and to leverage resources for children, including through innovative financing and optimized public funding; (e) capacity development of government counterparts to effectively design, plan, implement, monitor, evaluate and report on programmes for children and adolescents; (f) data and evidence to improve policies and programmes and to strengthen accountability mechanisms for children; and (g) communications for children and behaviour change, resource mobilization, partnership-building and campaigning for children.

49. It is anticipated that young people will become a major priority during the 2019–2023 programme period. UNICEF will increasingly focus on the active and meaningful participation of young people and on life skills and citizenship education, so that young people can be constructive members of society and actively participate in decisions that affect them and their families. Efforts will be made to ensure that girls and boys are equally engaged in such processes.

Programme effectiveness

50. The programme effectiveness outcome aims for the effective planning, coordination and results-based management of the programme of cooperation with the five Gulf States.

51. As part of the subregional programme management plan, a review of the Gulf Area Office will be undertaken to further optimize UNICEF partnerships and expanded presence, to better implement the ambitious and forward-looking new subregional programme, and to more effectively deliver results for children.

Summary budget table

Programme component	*(In thousands of United States dollars)*					
	Bahrain	*Kuwait*	*Qatar*	*Saudi Arabia*	*United Arab Emirates*	*Total*
Early childhood development	350	350	350	800	800	2 650
Child protection: violence, exploitation, and abuse	350	350	350	800	800	2 650
Data and evidence on children	300	300	300	600	600	2 100
Partnerships and leveraging commitments and resources for children	150	150	150	400	400	1 250
Programme effectiveness	100	100	100	150	150	600
Total	**1 250**	**1 250**	**1 250**	**2 750**	**2 750**	**9 250**

Programme and risk management

52. The main higher-level risks that could affect the achievement of the expected results relate to: (a) the potential for conflict in the wider region; (b) the level of cooperation among members of the Cooperation Council; (c) the rapidly changing socioeconomic context and economic downturn that negatively impacts government revenues; (d) adverse weather events or natural disasters; and, (e) a lack of adequate resources available for implementation of the programmes.

53. The country management team will monitor these risks systematically, closely follow progress in each country and look at potential bottlenecks for programme implementation, attempt to mitigate the impact of certain risks and take corrective actions when required.

54. The Gulf Area subregional programme of cooperation outlines UNICEF contributions to national results and is the primary unit of accountability to the Executive Board for alignment of resources assigned to the programme. Accountabilities of managers at the area office, regional and headquarters levels with respect to programmes are prescribed in the organization's programme and operations policies and procedures. The 2019–2023 programme is aligned with national development plans and United Nations strategic frameworks.

55. Agreements have been reached with all five Gulf States on joint planning of activities, programme management and annual reviews. These measures will be supplemented by strengthened an in-country presence to more directly engage with Governments and provide closer oversight of activities.

Monitoring and evaluation

56. The results and resources framework will form the basis of monitoring and evaluation activities. The missing baselines will be established as part of the programme as a matter of priority during the first year of programme implementation. A series of government-led workplanning interactions will be organized as part of the new programme process, out of which a monitoring and evaluation framework will be developed for each country.

57. Two key evaluations will be conducted: (a) Evaluation of the Gulf Area Programme, 2019–2023, with a focus on ECD; and (b) Formative evaluation of partnerships and resource mobilization. These evaluations will generate evidence and knowledge, and will inform decision-making on policies, development and organizational effectiveness as well as programme design.

58. UNICEF will work closely with all five Gulf States to strengthen national capacities to collect, collate and analyse data on progress towards the child-and adolescent-related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals. This will directly enhance the ability to monitor and measure the key result areas of the 2019–2023 subregional programme across all five countries.

59. In addition, UNICEF will forge closer relations with research, academic and policy institutions to strengthen local and subregional capacity to independently monitor, evaluate and report on the situation of children in the Gulf States.

Annex

Results and resources framework

Gulf Area (Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates) – UNICEF subregional programme of cooperation, 2019–2023

Convention on the Rights of the Child: Articles 2, 3, 6, 18, 19, 23, 24, 26, 28, 40 and 43–54.

National priorities: The Economic Vision 2030 for Bahrain; Kuwait: Vision 2035; Qatar National Vision 2030; Saudi Arabia Vision 2030; Abu Dhabi Economic Vision 2030

Sustainable Development Goals and Targets: 1:(1.3.1), 2:(2.2.1/2),3:(3.8.1)4:(4.2.1, 4.5.1,), 5:(5.2.1) 8:(8.7.1), 10:(10.1.1.), 16 (16.2.1, 16.2.3, 17.18)

UNDAF outcomes involving UNICEF: United Nations country team: United Nations Strategic Framework for Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Qatar and Bahrain

Outcome indicators measuring change that includes UNICEF contribution
Percentage of children under five years of age who are developmentally on track in health, learning and psychosocial well-being; percentage of children receiving a child or other social grant; rate of exclusive breastfeeding among infants under six months of age; percentage of schools that adopt and implement regulations to address violence and promote inclusive learning environments; countries having integrated revised national child rights indicators set into their national database systems, with data disaggregated by key equity dimensions including age, sex, wealth quintiles and disability; number of national policy documents that include child-specific disaggregated data to substantiate statements; member of partners and individuals demonstrating increased knowledge and commitment to child rights and child-centred programming; number of countries that generate evidence on budgets and their linkages to child outcomes to improve budget allocations/expenditure for children.

Related UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021 Goal Areas: 1–5

UNICEF outcomes	*Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
					RR	*OR*	*Total*
Early childhood development By 2023, all five Gulf countries have increased coverage of comprehensive, integrated early childhood	**Indicator 1:** Number of sectors that have adopted ECD packages for children at scale (Strategic Plan indicator)	Ministries of Health, Education and Social Welfare reports; National statistical entity impact studies; research and cohort studies.	**Output statement 1**: By 2023, all five Governments have improved capacity to plan, deliver and monitor their early childhood policies, programmes and services, by country.	Governments of Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates; counterpart entities, legislative bodies; Ministries of Social Development, Health, Education, Justice, [illegible] and Foreign Affairs	0	2 650	2 650

UNICEF outcomes	*Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)*			*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
							RR	*OR*	*Total*
development (ECD) services and nurturing care practices.	**Country**	**Baseline**	**Target**		**Output statement 2**: By 2023, an increased number of communities, families, parents and caregivers are reached through nurturing and parenting programmes.	– Family Affairs Council (Saudi Arabia) – Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood and the General Women's Union (United Arab Emirates). – Supreme Council for Family Affairs (Kuwait) – Supreme Council for Family Affairs (Qatar) – National Commissions for Childhood (Bahrain) – United Nations agencies – Regional bodies: Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf; – Civil society partners			
	Saudi Arabia	No[1]	Yes[2]						
	United Arab Emirates	No	Yes						
	Kuwait	No	Yes						
	Qatar	No	Yes						
	Bahrain	No	Yes						
Child protection from violence, abuse and exploitation By 2023, all boys and girls, without discrimination, are better protected from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation.	**Indicator 1**: Percentage of schools that adopt and implement regulations to address violence and promote inclusive learning environments, disaggregated by country.			Ministry of Labour and Social Development reports; Ministry of Education	**Output statement 1**: By 2023, prevention and response services to address violence and discrimination against children are strengthened in targeted sectors. **Output statement 2**: By 2023, knowledge and awareness on violence against children is increased among government institutions, civil society organizations and the public.	Governments of Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates; counterpart entities; legislative bodies; Ministries of Social Development, Health, Education, Justice, Finance, Planning, and Foreign Affairs – Family Affairs Council (Saudi Arabia) – Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood and the General Women's Union (United Arab Emirates). – Supreme Council for Family Affairs (Kuwait)	0	2 650	2 650
	Country	**Baseline**	**Target**						
	Saudi Arabia	To be confirmed in 2019	20% > from baseline						
	United Arab Emirates	To be confirmed in 2019	20% > from baseline						

[1] ECD interventions are not combined and delivered as a package.
[2] There are two or more ECD interventions combined and delivered as a package.

UNICEF outcomes	*Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)*			*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
							RR	*OR*	*Total*
	Kuwait	To be confirmed in 2019.	20% > from baseline			– Supreme Council for Family Affairs (Qatar) – National Commission for Childhood (Bahrain) – United Nations organizations – Regional bodies: Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf; – Civil society partners			
	Qatar	To be confirmed in 2019	20% >from baseline						
	Bahrain	To be confirmed in 2019	20% >from baseline						
Data and evidence for children By 2023, data disaggregated by age, sex, disability and wealth are used for planning, policy development and monitoring of the situation of children and the Sustainable Development Goals in all five Gulf countries.	**Indicator 1:** Number of countries having integrated revised national child rights indicators set into their national database systems with data disaggregated by key equity dimensions including age, sex, wealth quintiles and disability.			– List of national child rights indicators – National policy documents	**Output statement 1**: By 2023, Governments in the Gulf countries have strengthened capacities to routinely collect and share data disaggregated by age, sex, disability and wealth quintiles to inform policy, plans and budgets and monitoring of the situation of children. **Output statement 2:** By 2023, government ministries, academia and research institutions have strengthened capacities for child-focused research, analysis and knowledge sharing.	Governments of Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates; counterpart entities, national statistical authorities, Ministries of Planning, Health, Education, Labour, Social Development and Foreign Affairs. – United Nations organizations – Academia – Research institutions – Regional bodies	0	2 100	2 100
	Country	**Baseline**	**Target**						
	Saudi Arabia	No	Yes						
	United Arab Emirates	No	Yes						
	Kuwait	No	Yes						
	Qatar	No	Yes						
	Bahrain	No	Yes						
	Indicator 2: Number of national policy documents that include child-specific disaggregated data to substantiate statements.								
	Country	**Baseline**	**Target**						

UNICEF outcomes	*Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)*			*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
							RR	*OR*	*Total*
	Saudi Arabia	0	5						
	United Arab Emirates	0	5						
	Kuwait	0	5						
	Qatar	0	5						
	Bahrain	0	5						
Partnerships, and leveraging commitments and resources for children. By 2023, Governments, private sector and other partners demonstrate an increased commitment to child rights and mobilize resources for children globally and in the five Gulf countries	**Indicator 1:** Number of partners and individuals demonstrating increased knowledge and commitment to child rights and child-centred programming.			– New partners to UNICEF – PPD and PFP incomes – Legislation, policies and plans with child- focused budgets	**Output statement 1:** By 2023, enhance strategic engagement with public and private sectors and partners to leverage commitments and actions for realization of child rights beyond financial contributions, **Output statement 2:** By 2023, maximize resources from public and private partners for UNICEF programmes globally and in the Gulf countries. **Output statement 3:** By 2023, government capacity enhanced to generate evidence on budgets and their linkages to child outcomes to improve budget allocations/expenditure for children.	Governments, government-led appeals, charitable trusts and foundations, private corporations, high net worth individuals, and private individuals, United Nations agencies, regional organizations, multilateral organizations – PFP – PPD – MENA Regional Office	0	1 250	1 250
	Partners	**Baseline**	**Target**						
	PPD (Public Partnerships Division) **(donors)**	6 (2018)	10						
	PFP (Private Fundraising and Partnerships) **(individuals)**	0 (2018)	15						
	Indicator 2:								

UNICEF outcomes	*Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
					RR	*OR*	*Total*
	Number of countries that generate evidence on budgets and their linkages to child outcomes to improve budget allocations/expenditure for children **Country** / **Baseline** / **Target** Saudi Arabia / No / Yes United Arab Emirates / No / Yes Kuwait / No / Yes Qatar / No / Yes Bahrain / No / Yes						
	Indicator 3: Percentage increase in financial contributions to UNICEF from the public and private sector for children globally and in the Gulf countries. **Baseline** / **Target** **PPD**: \$60 million / \$76 million **PFP**: \$25 million / \$37.5 million						
Programme effectiveness					0	600	600
Total resources					**0**	**9 250**	**9 250**